

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chairman Bob Lake, on February 2, 2009 at 10:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Janna Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Dick Barrett (D)
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Mike Miller (R)
Rep. Art Noonan (D)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. Lee Randall (R)
Rep. J. David Roundstone (D)
Rep. Jon Sonju (R)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Jennifer O'Loughlin, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 240, 2/2/2009; SB 118, 2/2/2009

Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SB 181

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:57 Sen. John Esp (R), SD 31, opened the hearing on SB 181, Require tax information agents to report certain real estate transactions.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:02 William C. Gowen, Montana Land Title Association (MLTA)

00:09:30 Robert Sewell III, MLTA, First American Title Company

[EXHIBIT \(tah24a01\)](#)

00:15:45 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

[EXHIBIT \(tah24a02\)](#)

00:20:08 John Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

00:20:38 Gene Walborn, Bureau Chief, Business and Income Taxes Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)

[EXHIBIT \(tah24a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah24a04\)](#)

00:27:24 Holly Franz, Montana Society of CPAs

00:27:49 Joe Roberts, Montana Association of Realtors

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:29:06 Rep. Cohenour

00:29:28 Mr. Walborn

00:30:24 Rep. Cohenour

00:30:39 Mr. Walborn

00:32:06 Rep. Cohenour

00:32:24 Mr. Walborn

00:33:03 Rep. Cohenour

00:33:12 Mr. Walborn

00:33:20 Rep. Wiseman

00:33:35 Mr. Walborn

00:34:26 Rep. Wiseman

00:34:41 Mr. Walborn
00:35:08 Rep. Wiseman
00:35:19 Mr. Walborn
00:36:00 Chairman Lake
00:36:13 Mr. Gowen
00:37:21 Rep. Wiseman
00:38:02 Mr. Gowen
00:38:33 Rep. Wiseman
00:38:46 Mr. Gowen
00:39:15 Rep. Wiseman
00:39:27 Chairman Lake
00:39:40 Ms. Franz
00:39:50 Rep. McAlpin
00:40:09 Mr. Walborn
00:40:25 Rep. McAlpin
00:40:34 Mr. Walborn
00:40:44 Rep. Taylor
00:41:11 Sen. Esp
00:41:21 Rep. Taylor
00:41:31 Mr. Walborn
00:41:55 Chairman Lake
00:42:13 Mr. Walborn
00:42:31 Chairman Lake
00:43:08 Mr. Roberts
00:43:29 Chairman Lake
00:44:09 C.A. Daw, Chief Legal Counsel, DOR
00:45:08 Chairman Lake
00:45:50 Mr. Daw

Closing by Sponsor:

00:47:30 Sen. Esp
00:47:57 Chairman Lake closed the hearing.

00:48:11 Break

00:59:06 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 240

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:59:21 Chairman Lake asked Vice Chairman Janna Taylor to serve as temporary chairman.

Rep. Bob Lake (R), HD 88, opened the hearing on HB 240, Reduce business equipment property tax and reimburse local tax jurisdictions.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:06:22 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana Auto Dealers Association

EXHIBIT (tah24a05)

01:11:58 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent Businesses

01:13:57 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association, Montana Farm Bureau

01:16:25 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

01:18:03 Ellen Simpson, Montana Wood Products Association

01:19:28 Cory Swanson, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

01:20:39 Margaret Morgan, Greater Montana Electrical Contractors

01:21:45 Rhonda Wiggers, Great Falls and Helena Chambers of Commerce, Montana County Treasurers Association, Montana Coin Machine Operators

01:23:51 David Smith, Bozeman-area Chamber of Commerce

01:25:04 Steve Wade, Montana Contractors Association

01:26:04 Bob Gilbert, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

01:27:06 Neal Peterson, Gaming Association of Montana

01:27:36 Gary Amestoy, Richland Economic Development Corporation

Opponents' Testimony:

01:28:33 Eric Stern, Senior Counsel to the Governor

01:35:20 Tom Bilodeau, MEA-MFT

Informational Testimony:

01:38:28 C.A. Daw, Chief Legal Counsel, DOR

01:40:38 Larry Finch, Operations Research Analyst, DOR

01:40:51 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACO)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:43:58 Rep. Cohenour
01:44:51 Mr. Finch
01:48:22 Rep. Cohenour
01:48:52 Mr. Finch
01:49:55 Rep. Pomnichowski
01:50:40 Mr. Blattie
01:51:30 Rep. Pomnichowski
01:51:37 Mr. Finch
01:52:23 Vice Chairman Taylor
01:52:29 Rep. Miller
01:52:53 Mr. Bennion
01:53:09 Rep. Butcher
01:53:36 Mr. Stern
01:54:23 Rep. Butcher
01:54:54 Mr. Stern
01:55:10 Rep. Butcher
01:55:51 Mr. Stern
01:56:15 Rep. Sonju
01:56:49 Mr. Finch
01:57:42 Rep. Sonju
01:58:29 Rep. Lake
01:58:41 Rep. Sonju
01:58:48 Rep. Wiseman
01:59:21 Rep. Lake
01:59:54 Mr. Martin
02:01:45 Rep. Wiseman
02:01:53 Mr. Martin
02:02:35 Rep. Noonan
02:03:09 Mr. Stern
02:04:03 Rep. Grinde
02:04:35 Rep. Lake
02:05:02 Rep. Grinde
02:05:23 Mr. Martin
02:05:53 Rep. McAlpin
02:06:29 Mr. Finch
02:06:56 Vice Chairman Taylor
02:07:08 Rep. McAlpin
02:07:41 Rep. Taylor
02:08:28 Mr. Bilodeau
02:09:06 Rep. Taylor
02:09:37 Mr. Bilodeau
02:09:51 Mr. Martin
02:10:43 Rep. Cohenour
02:11:28 Mr. Stern
02:11:57 Rep. Grinde
02:13:06 Mr. Bennion
02:14:10 Vice Chairman Taylor
02:14:22 Rep. Jopek

02:14:57 Rep. Butcher
02:16:11 Mr. Bennion
02:17:30 Vice Chairman Taylor
02:18:14 Mr. Gilbert

Closing by Sponsor:

02:19:52 Rep. Lake
02:22:36 Vice Chairman Taylor closed the hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

02:22:50 Adjournment: 12:20 P.M.

Jennifer O'Loughlin, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([tah24aad.pdf](#))